

March 11, 1991

Joint Program Gives Researchers More Access to Information

NOAA/NASA Venture to Lower Data Costs

NOAA and NASA have started a cooperative program which will make environmental satellite data bases widely accessible and at little cost to climate and global change researchers.

Under a joint agreement known as Pathfinders, climate-related NOAA satellite data, currently in archival storage on thousands of magnetic tapes, will be transferred to a more accessible storage media like optical discs. Information products critical for monitoring the Earth's climate and global change potential will be generated from the new storage media and made available to researchers.

Data from NOAA's AVHRR (Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer) satellite sensors have been designated for the first Pathfinder Data Set. The AVHRR is NOAA's multipurpose environmental

sensor that measures physical properties of the earth's surface and atmosphere on a global scale.

14 Years of Data Transferred

NOAA and NASA will transfer the four terabyte (trillion bytes), 14 year AVHRR data record from 31,000 magnetic tapes to approximately 600 twelve-inch optical discs. The AVHRR data base contains 93,000 global orbits from seven NOAA earth-orbiting satellites dating back to 1978. Each optical disc will hold about ten days worth of data or the equivalent of 50 magnetic tapes. NOAA plans to offer AVHRR Pathfinder optical discs to users at the cost of repro-

duction and distribution, which is a fraction of the cost of purchasing individual magnetic tapes.

The NOAA-NASA team report the move to a new medium is expected to greatly improve data accessibility and application in global change research, while supporting activities in both NOAA's Climate and Global Change Program and NASA's Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS).

The AVHRR provides visible and infrared observations at a 4 kilometer resolution over the entire earth, twice per day from NOAA's two operational polar-orbiting satellites. The global data can be used to produce daytime and nighttime images of the earth and numerous geophysical measurements such as global sea-surface temperature, land vegetation index, and atmospheric cloudiness. ☺

Zebra Mussels' Days May Be Numbered, If Sea Grant Researchers Succeed

The Zebra mussel, that pesky bivalve beginning to establish a foothold in the Great Lakes, may have met its match in a NOAA-funded Sea Grant Researcher.

The Sea Grant researcher in Ohio has discovered that potassium phosphate might do to zebra mussels what Raid does to cockroaches—and it appears to be harmless to other fresh water animals. Potassium phosphate is

cheaper and safer for the environment than chemicals currently used to combat mussel infestations clogging intake valves of Great Lakes power plants and water treatment facilities.

But researchers are hesitant to run out and sprinkle rock salt all over Lake Michigan just yet. Potassium phosphate may have lethal effects on other bivalves like the zebra mussel, such as freshwater clams. More testing is needed, experts say. ☺

Coming Events

■ **TV Weathercaster Severe Storms Workshop.** Keeping TV weathercasters apprised of advances in operational policies and research accomplishments in Kansas City, Mo., Mar. 15-16.

'One-Stop Shopping' for Governments

NOAA Seeks New Ties to States, Cities

With victory number one under their belt, NOAA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division is off to a strong start in its mission as part of an ongoing effort to bolster relationships between NOAA and state and local governments.

The new division, headed by Colleen Engler, former Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Department of Commerce, will coordinate NOAA's efforts on specific environmental issues with other governmental agencies and public interest groups.

Talk to 'Opinion Leaders'

"Our purpose is to actively pursue an agenda with state and local governments to ensure NOAA speakers appear on their calendars and to make sure opinion leaders outside the Beltway learn more about NOAA programs," Engler said.

On board only a few short weeks, Engler and her staff had their first challenge earlier this year. The National Governors Association (NGA), an association of state governors, contemplated passing a resolution shifting responsibility for volunteer seafood inspection away from NOAA, making it mandatory, and placing it in the hands of the Department of Agriculture.

A working agreement currently exists between NOAA and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate seafood inspection and the Department of Agriculture, at present, does not have any ties with the fishing industry. "We told the association that transferring control of voluntary seafood inspection away from NOAA to the Department of Agriculture would not only be costly but also time con-

suming and could result in a lapse in effective seafood inspection," Engler said.

Due to Engler's guidance and her staff's persistent efforts to speak with NGA members, the proposed resolution was defeated in committee before it reached the voting stage.

conservation, and natural disaster reduction.

Economic Development

Various NOAA agencies produce a wealth of data that can be applied to enhancing economic development, and Intergovernmental Affairs works to bring that information to interested parties. For example, advance notice of severe weather forecasts can save citrus growers from losing their crops to frost.

The new Intergovernmental Affairs Division's purpose, says Engler, 'is to make sure opinion leaders outside the Beltway learn more about NOAA programs.'

Partnership Programs

NOAA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division has other goals as well. "By establishing partnership programs with public and private organizations to co-sponsor community projects involving environmental issues, we increase public environmental awareness," Engler said. "NOAA's partnership programs secure a bridge of mutual cooperation with the states," she added.

"The mutual exchange of information, access to NOAA facilities and knowledge of our expertise strengthens and expands NOAA/constituent relations," said Engler. Some of the topics of interest include global environment, marine

"Many of today's pertinent environmental issues cross cut different NOAA services. Using Intergovernmental Affairs as a primary resource will simplify the quest for information and hasten the rate of response," Engler said.

Engler noted that the division's efforts at networking with governmental agencies and public interest groups gives it the capability of addressing the concerns, complaints and questions from various states at a grass roots level.

"We exist to provide state and local governments with one stop shopping," says Engler.

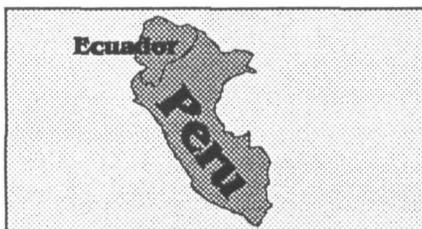
—Joan Sckalor ☺

Peru Cholera May Affect Seafood Exports

A serious outbreak of cholera has been reported in Peru, possibly due to coastal plankton transferred through fish and shellfish which are a large part of the Peruvian diet.

Police in coastal ports are stopping fishermen from operating, as open marine sewers threaten to further infect coastal fishery stocks.

This is the first major outbreak of cholera in the western hemisphere since the 1880's.



Peru is the site of a cholera epidemic.

As a result, several Latin American countries have banned fishery imports from Peru to forestall the spread of the disease. Ecuadorean fishing companies are concerned that a possible spread of the disease to Ecuador will impair the Ecuadorean export of fishery products to the United States.

Currently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not implemented any special or

unusual seafood inspection regulations on Peru or Ecuador. Peruvian seafood exports to the United States, more than \$97 million in 1989, are currently subject to routine inspection at port of entry. ☺

New Cargo Tax to Fund Maps, Charts

NOAA may reap the benefits of increased cargo taxes collected by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps is looking to transfer \$45 million worth of harbor cargo taxes to NOAA for mapping and charting activities.

Under current law, a cargo tax is collected at ports and deposited into the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to be used for certain Corps activities to maintain harbors. The Water Resources and Development Act, passed last year, increased the cargo tax by an amount that would be

sufficient to fund NOAA's charting activities. According to this law, the funds were to be transferred into a newly created Marine Waterways Trust Fund for use by NOAA.

In the 1991 appropriations act and the reconciliation bill, Congress increased the cargo tax by the total amount requested but did not create a new account into which the money can be placed.

Discussions are currently underway to determine whether statutory authority exists which would allow the Corps to transfer to DoC the amounts in question. ☺

***Please share this copy of NOAA Report
with colleagues in your office.***

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ERRATA NOTICE

One or more conditions of the original document may affect the quality of the image, such as:

Discolored pages

Faded or light ink

Binding intrudes into the text

This has been a co-operative project between the NOAA Central Library and the Climate Database Modernization Program, National Climate Data Center (NCDC). To view the original document, please contact the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, MD at (301) 713-2607 x124 or Library.Reference@noaa.gov

HOV Services
Imaging Contractor
12200 Kiln Court
Beltsville, MD 20704-1387
July 23, 2010